

The Washington State ARCHITECTS

*A publication of the Washington
State Board for Architects*

NEWS BULLETIN

December 2012

What's new

Message from the Outgoing Board Chair

It seems like only a year or two ago that I was heading for Tacoma to my first meeting as the new member of the Washington State Board for Architects. That was in July of 2000! Boy, working on the board will make you old real quick...or maybe it's forgetful...or both...I don't remember.

Hot issues back then included defining the term "welfare" (as in Health, Safety & Welfare), defining acceptable equivalent education/experience options to a NAAB Accredited degree, updating "Guidelines for Washington State Building Officials and Design Professionals" (the Q&A "Green Book"), and the initiation of mandatory IDP.

The non-licensed design professionals and architects were locked in a "cold war" of sorts, each sure that their opponent's only agenda was to take their business. Maybe it wasn't that dire, but there was a lot of animosity and mistrust which fortunately, faded away after some clarification of the building area and occupancy exemptions in RCW 18.08.410.

Every board meeting included a closed session of a half hour or more to review registration candidate records. Each record required 3 board member signatures indicating approval. As there are specific criteria for the approval requirements the review is now done by board staff.

One of our main tasks between meetings was to conduct oral examinations of the candidates. This face-to-face meeting was to verify the individual's work experience and knowledge of our state laws governing architects and the practice of architecture. Mandatory IDP has all but eliminated these interviews. Now they are only required for candidates who have not completed IDP (only an issue for some reciprocity applicants) or are lacking a NAAB accredited degree.

In June of 2001, the Mariners were at the top of the charts and NCARB held their annual meeting in Seattle. The entire board got to attend allowing the newer members to be immersed into the midst of NCARB's fundamental workings, getting exposed to a full gamut of regulation and registration issues, participating in the regional, national meetings, attending the presentations and work sessions, as well as discussing local issues and concerns with regulators from other jurisdictions. Life was good! In recent years we have only been allowed to send our board chair and executive.

Along with the usual disciplinary issues and housekeeping, the board has been presented with numerous issues and proposals over the years. These include: Proposed Licensing Laws for Interior Designers and Building Designers, clarification of RCW 18.08 exceptions (mentioned above), writing rules & policies for revisions to the Architect's Law, use of NCARB to validate & record IDP experience, 5 year rolling clock extensions, Early start of ARE for those with a NAAB degree and enrollment in IDP, ARE's 6 month waiting period to retake failed sections, mandatory continuing education & specific requirements, firm registration, and coming soon, an online multiple choice test on RCW 18.08, 18.235 & WAC 308-12 to replace the summary of the law. In the past dozen years the Architectural Licensing Departments has gone from regular mail, phone, and some e-mail communication to group mailing lists and nearly everything available online (information, services, publications, forms, links, etc.).

Upcoming issues are sure to include electronic submittals, electronic record documents, and ownership of, & responsibility for shared digital models.

Well, it's been a great 12 years and I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to work with so many conscientious, knowledgeable, talented and hard working board members and board staff. Treat them well.

Board Members Tackle the “Green Book”

At the October meeting, board members created a task force to work on a new website for building officials. The new site will replace the outdated “Guidelines for Washington State Building Officials and Design Professionals” (aka the “Green Book.”) The task force will be collaborating with the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors on the website.

News from NCARB

NCARB has expanded IDP opportunities. The organization recently implemented a new opportunity, construction work, as well as modified the academic internship opportunity to remove the 930-hour cap. Interns may take advantage of both of these opportunities immediately. In the case of academic internships, the change is retroactive to April 5. Find out more information on the NCARB [website](#).

Your board members:

Neitha Wilkey, AIA, Chair – Lakewood
Colin Jones, AIA, Vice Chair – Seattle
Benson A. Nielsen, AIA, NCARB, Secretary – Spokane
Rick Benner, AIA, Member – Sumas
Pamela J. Transue, Public Member – Tacoma
Blaine Weber, AIA, Member – Seattle
Charles F. Farrell, AIA, Chair – Camas

2013 Board Meeting Schedule

Meeting agendas and minutes are published on our [website](#) as they become available.
All meetings are scheduled to start at 9 AM

January 25	Department of Licensing, Olympia
March 8	Spokane, location TBD
May 31	Vancouver, location TBD
July 26	Department of Licensing, Olympia
September 20	Washington State University, Pullman
November 15	Western Washington University, Bellingham

2014 meeting dates will be set at the November meeting

Discussion topics from the October board meeting

Meeting minutes are available on our [website](#), or attend the meetings in person to hear the complete discussions

Complaints and disciplinary activity

The Washington State Board for Architects regulates the industry by investigating complaints of unprofessional conduct and incompetence against licensees, and issues of unlicensed practice. When a complaint is received by the board, an initial investigation is started to gather information about the situation, and usually involves contact with the subject of the complaint (the respondent).

Current Cases:

Unlicensed practice	8
Unprofessional conduct	1
Total open cases:	9

A board member is assigned as a case manager and serves as the technical expert. The investigation process can be lengthy and the case has several possible outcomes. The case may be closed by the board with no further action if not enough evidence is found to support the complaint or the respondent quickly remedies the situation. For more serious issues, the board may issue a statement of charges against the respondent, with sanctions for each offense. The respondent has an opportunity for a settlement conference to negotiate the sanctions or can ask for a hearing.

Use of the words “architect,” “architecture” and “architectural” is a common basis for unlicensed practice complaints. The board regularly reviews unlicensed practice cases where the respondent advertised as an architect. In each of these cases, the board clarifies the protected status of this language according to RCW 18.08.310 and asks for compliance.

- If the respondent complies with the law, if no evidence supports the allegation, or if the respondent was appropriately using licensed architects to provide the architectural services, the board closes the case with no further action.
- If the respondent fails to comply with the law, the case manager recommends charges, with a corresponding sanction.

At the October 26, 2012 meeting, the board closed one case:

Case	Allegation	Board Action
2012-09-0400-00ARC	Unlicensed practice	The board received a complaint alleging unlicensed activity in Washington by an architect licensed in another jurisdiction. The case manager recommended closure of this case for lack of evidence and the board closed the case with no further action.

Licensee news

Congratulations! The Washington State Board for Architects and staff welcomed 41 new licensees to the profession between September 1, 2012 and November 30, 2012.

First License (22)		Washington Reciprocal License (36)	
Caroline Christen Carmichael Senan Choe Steven Lamar Clark Case Christopher Creal Karoline Melrose Derse John Jerome Faley James Andrew Finch Blake Robert Gallagher Michael David Jobes Sina Maria Sofia Kampari Pearson Clint Alan Keithley	Andrew Allen Macdonald Sarah Beatrice Martin Jihad Joseph Mezher Jessica Erin Nelson Karina Ogomori Jon Michael Phillips Kevin Brandon Price Peter Spotswood Spruance George L. Tomisser Epaminondas Antonios Trimis Benjamin Irving Wolk-Weiss	Jeffrey Warren Allsbrook Jennifer Marie Beattie Loren Ronald Berry Bobby W. Bishop, Jr. Steven C. Carver John Edward Christenson Cheryl D. Click Stephen C. Click Nicole Marie Demers- Changelo Jeffrey L. Good Joshua Dean Hilton Timothy William Homburg Mark R. Hornberger Branka Knezevic Terry Lynn Leach Kelley Leblanc Aaron Joshua Lemchen Geoffrey Buena Vista Lim	Michael J. Mace Brian Todd McNertney Anthony Thomas Miller John Lawrence Miller Robert M. Mosier Joseph L. Oliveri Daniel A. Perry Randy Eliot Pimsler Stefan A. Richter Thomas Harry Robson Matthew Louis Rossetti John C. Scales Duncan Gregory Stroik James Edward VanderMolen Steven John Wagner Christopher M. Walker Daniel Webster Winey William C. Wright

Professional Development Requirements

Remember - as of **July 1, 2011** the new law regulating the profession of architecture requires continuing professional development hours (PDH). The board developed a flexible and liberal approach to implement the continuing education requirements. Visit our website for more information.

How many hours of PD activities do I need?	You need to accumulate 24 professional development hours (PDH) over your 2-year renewal period. At least 16 PDH must address public health, safety, and welfare.
Where can I find a list of activities or classes?	Contact your professional associations, (American Institute of Architects Washington Council , American Institute for Architects) and related professions (National Society of Professional Engineers). Look at the list of qualifying activities on our webpage : it's possible that many of your existing activities qualify and you just need to record them.
How do I record my hours?	Keep track of the classes you attend or the activities you participate in – you can use your own method, the worksheet provided by the board or the American Institute of Architect Continuing Education System . Keep receipts or certificates of completion. If you don't have these records, keep the agendas, handouts, copies of book covers, etc. to show you were involved in the activity. You should keep these records for 5 years.
What if I get audited?	You'll be asked to submit your records and supporting materials. If the board determines you are missing hours or some of your activities don't qualify, we may require you to make up the shortage.
When do I start recording my hours?	Start recording your PDH now. The audits will start after July 2013.
What if I have more questions?	1) Visit the board's website : we have examples of qualifying activities, sample record keeping forms, and more. 2) Review the new rules , especially sections 308-12-250 through 308-12-290.

Keep your license active – remember these tips:

1. Renewal fees are due every other birthday and are your responsibility.
2. Renewal notices are a courtesy—you are accountable for renewing even if you don't receive a notice.
3. You should notify our office when you change your address: architects@dol.wa.gov or 360-664-1388.
4. Keep your professional development records current. Information and forms to assist you are available on our [website](#).

Skip a trip – go online: www.dol.wa.gov

*We are committed to providing equal access to our services.
If you need accommodation, please call 360-664-6597 or TTY 360-664-0116.*

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